

WEST BRIDGFORD
Urban District Council,
1908.



Chairman:

MR. GEORGE THOMAS LOVETT, J.P.

Vice Chairman :

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Clerk — —

Medical Officer of Health

Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector

Rate Collector —

Treasurer —

MR. W. H. REDGATE.

DR. WALTER HUNTER.

MR. WILLIAM PARE, C.E.

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„ HENRY E. THORNTON, J.P.



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. . **REPORT** . .
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1908.

*To the Chairman and Members of
the West Bridgford Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my Eighteenth Annual Report which deals with the year 1908.

At the election in April last; the *personnel* of your Council underwent a great change. The valuable services of several of the most experienced members were lost to your Council and Parish.

The Parish still maintains its reputation for a phenomenally low death-rate, and a much too low birth-rate, while the great longevity of many of the parishioners is again strikingly emphasized.

In the introductory remarks in my last year's Report I gave a brief outline of the development and progress of the Public Health Services from before the passing of the Public Health Act of 1875.

During the past year Public Health Work has been further increased, especially in the Counties and County Boroughs.

The inspection of midwives and the supervision of the inspection of children in the elementary schools, are additional duties put upon Medical Officers of Health.

Our own County of Nottingham is divided into Urban Districts and Rural Districts and the District Medical Officer of Health attached to these have important duties to observe in relation to the County Council.

Under section 19 of the Local Government Act, he must supply the County Council with a copy of every Periodical Report, including of course, his Annual Report.

He must also transmit to the County Council, a copy of any Report he may make to the Local Government Board, on any outbreak of infectious disease, or of any matter such as School Closure, which may form the subject of any Special Report.

The County Council, by becoming possessed of these Reports periodically issued by the District Medical Officers, are enabled to compile and collate valuable statistics, and obtain information concerning sanitary matters, which, for comparative purposes, must ultimately become of great value.

The Annual Reports of the District Medical Officers must be printed—they are carefully scrutinised by the County Medical Officer of Health and any error or omission is detected and corrected.

District Medical Officers further supply Monthly Returns voluntarily, to the County Medical Officer of Health, with reference to the presence of infectious diseases in their districts, and since the passing of the Midwives Act, particulars of cases of Puerperal Fever are reported upon. For this latter, the Notts. County Council allow a fee of half a guinea.

The County Council has recently issued the following letter with reference to these Annual Reports.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF NOTTS.

CLERK'S OFFICE,
SHIRE HALL, NOTTINGHAM.

18TH JANUARY, 1909.

Sir,

In recent years the Annual Reports of some of the District Medical Officers of Health have been sent in very late in the year. It is desirable that these Reports should reach me as soon after the end of the year as possible, and I am instructed by the Finance Committee of the County Council to inform the District Councils in the County that unless the Reports are sent in before the end of March in this and in every future year the County Council will

consider whether the payment of the Grant towards the Salary of the District Medical Officer should not be withheld, or delayed until the Reports have been received.

I shall be glad therefore, if you will be good enough to take steps to insure that the Report from your Medical Officer may be sent in in good time.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

H. HAMPTON COPNALL,
Clerk of the County Council.

The rateable value of the Property in the District assessable to the General District Rate is £52,683.

The District Rate is $\frac{3}{4}$ in the £. A penny rate produces £219.

SEWAGE FARM,

Good yields of Oats and Mangolds with a small yield of Carrots, were obtained from the Farm. In addition to these, a good crop of Osiers was grown, which yielded £15 per acre. The labour and cost of growing these are smaller than those of any other crops and the return is larger; consequently your Council has decided upon planting another acre. The Revenue derived from the Oats and Mangolds was also satisfactory.

SEWAGE PURIFICATION.

The Bacterial Installation continues to give very satisfactory results. Any solids contained in the effluent

are intercepted as the effluent passes over the land after it leaves the beds. The effluent continues to be clear and free from smell.

Owing to the increasing population, your Council may soon have to consider the question of the extension of the Purification Works.

DESTRUCTOR.

The quality of the refuse in the district has lately depreciated considerably, and there is now no "stored" refuse to use in the destructor. Owing to this, some coal slack has now to be used in the furnace in order to get the necessary amount of steam required for the pumping of the sewage and subsoil water.

During the year the Boiler tubes were withdrawn, cleaned and replaced. New tubes being substituted where necessary.

The Installation continues to give satisfaction and the cost of repairs is low.

SCAVENGING.

There are now 500 Ashpits and Privies in the Parish a decrease of 35 since my last Annual Report. There are 352 Pail Closets, being an increase of 27. These Pail or Tub Closets have been substituted for deep Privy Ashpits. During the year I have made inquiries into the working of the Waste Water Closets, and have not had a single complaint nor objection to them.

DISINFECTIONS.

During the year 34 houses were disinfected as compared with 25 during 1907. It is a credit to your Sanitary Staff that I have had no complaints as to the way this important work is carried out. Owing to an outbreak of Diphtheria amongst the scholars attending the Muster's Road Schools at Christmas last, I advised the thorough disinfecting of the class-rooms and this was properly done.

ROADS.

During the year several Private Streets were adopted by your Council, as follows:

Glebe Road, part of Highfield Road, and Central Avenue, Muster's Road, (South End) and part of South Road

A considerable amount of repairs to the District Roads have been carried out and West Bridgford can claim that there are no better roads for pedestrian and vehicle traffic in the County.

TREES.

The only extension of Trees during the year, was in Portland Road. 59 dead trees have been replaced, the majority of these were killed by gas escapes. Tree planting has added greatly to the beauty and charm of the Parish.

ALLOTMENTS.

The Allotment Gardens continue to supply a very real demand. They are a pleasure and a source of profit

to both owner and tenant. It is pleasing to note that since they were first laid out, no garden has remained untenanted.

SEWERS.

The only extension of these was laid through Central Avenue.

WATER.

During the year the following mains were laid :—

Carlyle Road	...	95 yds. of 3 in. main.
Carnarvon Road	...	155 yds. of 3 in. main.
Richmond Road	...	80 yds. of 3 in. main.
Central Avenue	...	93 yds. of 3 in. main.
Exchange Road	...	150 yds. of 3 in. main.
Edward Road	...	117 yds. of 4 in. main.
Devonshire Road	...	60 yds. of 3 in. main.
Grossby Road	...	146 yds. of 4 in. main.
Rutland Road	...	100 yds. of 3 in. main.
Musters Road	...	48 yds. of 4 in. main.
Trevelyan Road	...	150 yds. of 4 in. main.
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Total	...	1194 yds.
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The attempt to get Parliamentary Powers to obtain an independent Water Supply for your District was unsuccessful and a special rate has been levied to meet the Parliamentary and other costs of the proceedings.

GAS AND LIGHTING.

In previous reports I have been enabled to give some

information with regard to the work done by the Gas Committee of the Nottingham Corporation in your Parish. Last year and this year my request for such information has been not only ignored, but my letters have not even been acknowledged. Such conduct on the part of a rich and powerful Corporation towards the residents of your District, many of whom contribute largely to the Nottingham rates, is to say the least, discourteous.

POPULATION.

Mr. Comery, your Rate Collector, has kindly informed me that at Midsummer, 1908, there were 2653 houses in the Parish, of which 128 were unoccupied. This leaves 2525 inhabited houses. This shows an increase of 135 occupied houses, over the corresponding date of 1907.

Of the total number of dwellings (2653) 676 were on the Lady Bay Estate, of which 35 or OVER 5 per cent. were unoccupied. On the remaining part of the Parish there were 1977 houses of which 93 or just UNDER, 5 per cent. were unoccupied.

Reckoning as in former years, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inhabitants to each house, we get a population on 30th June last of 11,362, or an increase of 607 inhabitants, for the year 1908 as compared with 1907. The rate of growth is almost identical with that of 1906-7.

Year	Inhabited Houses	Population	Increase
1904	2110	9494	729
1905	2186	9837	342
1906	2254	10143	306
1907	2390	10755	612
1908	2525	11362	607

These figures show the continuous growth of your district. Building operations are now chiefly on the south side of the parish. The tendency is however in the direction of building smaller houses suitable for the artizan class

The number of houses at present in course of erection is 107 as against 30 houses in course of erection at this time last year. Your Building Committee passed plans for 67 new houses, 17 stables and alterations during the year.

BIRTHS.

188 births were registered during 1908.—80 males and 108 females as compared with 173 during 1907. One illegitimate child was born as compared with 9 illegitimate during 1907, which was an unfortunate year in this respect

The birth-rate is 16.5 per 1000 as compared with 16.1 in 1907. The birth-rate is still disappointingly low.

The birth-rate for Nottingham for 1908, was 27 per 1000.

MARRIAGES.

46 marriages took place in the parish during the year. Of these, 39 were solemnized in the Parish Church, 5 in the Non-conformist Churches, and 2 before the Registrar.

DEATHS.

64 deaths occurred during the year. Of these 29 males and 35 females as compared with 80 deaths during 1907 and 76 during 1906.

These deaths occurred as follows:—

1st quarter	...	...	19 deaths.
2nd „	...	...	14 „
3rd „	...	...	16 „
4th „	...	...	15 „

The following are the ages at death:—

Under 1 Year	...	...	11 deaths.
1 to 10 years	...	...	1 death
10 to 20 „	...	...	1 „
20 to 30 „	...	...	5 deaths
30 to 40 „	...	...	3 „
40 to 50 „	...	...	5 „
50 to 60 „	...	...	4 „
60 to 70 „	...	...	16 „
70 to 80 „	...	...	11 „
80 to 90 „	...	...	7 „
			<hr/> 64 <hr/>

The principal causes of death were as follows—

Consumption of the Lungs	...	4 deaths.	.
Tubercular Diseases (other			
than Consumption)	...	3 „	
Pneumonia	...	3 „	
Bronchites	...	3 „	

Heart Disease	...	...	13	„
Cerebral Disease	...	...	5	„
Cancer	...	...	11	„
Premature Birth	...	...	6	„
Senile Decay...	...	...	3	„

There was one uncertified Death. One inquest was held. Of the total deaths (64) more than half (34) or 53 per cent were people over 60 years of age; while 18 or 28 per cent of the total deaths were over 70 years of age.

In 1907, 37 per cent. of the total deaths were persons over 70 years of age.

I have in previous Reports drawn attention to the great longevity of the residents of West Bridgford. Probably this may be due to the residential character of the District. Many elderly people who have retired from business select West Bridgford as a suitable place in which to spend the eventide of their days, The level nature of the District which is favorable to walking out-of-doors especially in the case of feeble and elderly people conduces to this.

The “gross” death-rate for the year, is 5.6 per 1,000 inhabitants, which is the lowest death-rate ever recorded in the Parish. The Local Government Board, however, demand that the deaths of residents taking place in Institutions or otherwise, outside the District and which have been registered as having occurred in these places, must be added to the “gross” deaths, so as to arrive at the ‘net’ or “corrected” rate. I am indebted to Dr. Handford

the County Medical Health Officer, and to Dr. Wray, of Basford District Council, for this information. From these sources, I learn that two of the inhabitants of West Bridgford, died in the Nottingham General Hospital, and three in the Notts. County Asylum during 1908, and that one death by drowning, took place just outside the confines of your Parish.

This gives a total of 6 such deaths, and brings the total deaths to 70 and the "net" or "corrected" death-rate to 6.2. This rate is 1 per 1,000 less than ever recorded before. I know of no district in the Kingdom which can boast such an abnormally low death-rate. The Nottingham death-rate for 1908 was 15.4 per 1000.

INFANT MORTALITY.

11 deaths were registered as having occurred before the completion of the first year of life. Of these deaths, 6 were due to premature birth. This gives an Infant Mortality of 58 per 1,000 births which is very low.

It is a remarkable fact that during the last 11 years the number of infants dying under the age of one year has been 11 in seven of these years, and that the average number during those 11 years, has also been 11.

The early notification of Births Act, has now been in force one year. The main object of this Act, is the reduction of the great waste of Infant Life throughout the Country. It is too early yet to judge of its effects. Presumably they will be very satisfactory, especially in towns where amongst the poorer classes, much ignorance prevails with regard to the care, the feeding, and rearing of infants.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

48 cases were notified as follows:—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	33 cases.
Diphtheria	...	...	7 „
Enteric Fever	...	...	5 „
Puerperal Fever,	...	...	1 case.
Erysipelas	...	...	2 cases.

this compares with 36 cases notified in 1907. As is usual nearly 50 per cent. of the cases were notified during the last quarter of the year.

A study of these cases year after year convinces me that the Nottingham Goose Fair and the Children's Parties so frequently held during the Christmas Holidays, are potent factors in the spread of infectious disease—thus of the 33 cases of Scarlet Fever, 11 were notified in October, following the Goose Fair.

Three of the cases of Diphtheria were notified on the 22nd, 23rd, and 24th, December, respectively. On enquiry I found that these three children had attended a party in the Musters Road Schools on the 17th December.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

(1) SCARLET FEVER. 33 cases were notified as compared with 17 cases during 1907. This disease seldom now appears in a virulent form, and except for the long period of isolation necessary, it is really now a comparatively harmless ailment. There were no deaths.

The 33 cases affected 26 families. The largest number of cases in one family being 4.

All the cases were treated at home, with one exception—a young man living in the house attached to the County Cricket Pavilion. He sickened at the opening of the Cricket Season, and the County Cricket Committee being most anxious for his removal, he was by a special arrangement admitted to the Bagthorpe Isolation Hospital, without any cost to your Parish.

An arrangement has now been made between your Council and the Basford Authorities, by which cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Enteric Fever, will now be admitted to the Basford Infectious Hospital.

The Basford Authority will send a horse-ambulance and a nurse for the patient, at the expense of the Urban District Council of West Bridgford. Where procurable, this expense can be recovered from the Parents or Guardian of the patient. The charge will be 25/- per week for cases of Scarlet Fever, and 30/- per week for cases of Diphtheria and Enteric Fever, during residence in hospital. This arrangement has now been in force for some months, but up to the present time it has not been taken advantage of.

Your Council has further agreed to pay an annual sum of £10 towards the upkeep of the Basford Hospital.

I think it is possible to treat cases of Scarlet Fever in small houses, and yet prevent the disease spreading to the other members of the family, providing certain precautions are adopted. Here is a striking case, under my own care, as an evidence of this.

A boy aged 5 years, sickened with a sharp attack on 28th December, last. I saw him first on the 30th. The family consisted of Father, Mother and 7 Children, ranging from 5 months to 22 years. None of these had had the Fever before. The cottage was of the ordinary artizan class, consisting of parlour, kitchen and three bedrooms. The rent was 6/6 per week. The Parents could not afford to send the child to the Basford Sanatorium. The mother and baby occupied the same room as the sick boy throughout the illness, the mother attending to her household duties as usual. Certain precautions in the way of disinfecting the body of the sick child, were used during the first 3 weeks of the illness. He was allowed to leave his bedroom on the 6th February and join the other members of the family, and up to the time of this report going to the Printer's, the disease has not spread.

(2) DIPHTHERIA. 7 cases were notified as against 10 cases in 1907. One case proved fatal. Although this scourge is still far too prevalent, the mortality is immensely reduced by improved methods of treatment. The Anti-toxin Serum treatment, is now thoroughly established and continues to give most excellent results. The earlier this is resorted to the better the result. It is now known that the Serum may be administered by the mouth, with good results, and some Doctors now prefer this plan to that of injecting the Serum under the skin.

After an attack of Diphtheria, the patient should have a long holiday and not allowed to return to school for some weeks after convalescence.

(3) ENTERIC FEVER. 5 cases was notified as compared with 6 cases during 1907. This disease appears sporadically and it is always difficult to find out how it is contracted. In two of the cases it is probable that the eating of oysters containing the bacillus of Typhoid, may have been the cause. The evidence that this disease is frequently contracted by eating contaminated shell fish is increasing. Oysters, Cockles, Mussels, etc., are collected from polluted sources on our coasts, and find their way to the various markets and are consumed with a total disregard to the ill results which too frequently follow. Unfortunately Enteric Fever so contracted, is of a much more severe character than the ordinary type of fever,

NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

(1) INFLUENZA. Two deaths were attributed to this disease. though this disease did not visit the Parish in an epidemic form.

(2) ENTERITES (ZYMOTIC) or Summer Diarrhœa. For the Second year in succession this disease was conspicuous by its absence from the list of deaths.

(3) CONSUMPTION. 4 deaths were registered as against 6 during 1907. The ages were, 21, 22, 28 and 34. Medical and lay opinion is still unsettled as to the wisdom of the compulsory notification of Consumption.

As a tentative measure the Local Government Board has issued an order making it obligatory upon poor law Medical Officers, to notify to the Medical Officer of Health

all cases of Consumption occurring amongst parish patients. This order will apply to all parish patients, whether they are being treated at home or in public institutions.

The notification must be made within 48 hours after the discovery of the case.

Should this scheme result in any diminution of the prevalence of the disease, the opinion of those who advocate compulsory notification of all cases of Consumption will be greatly strengthened.

So far I have had only one such notification.

(41) CANCER. 11 deaths were due to Cancer. Little, if any progress was made during the year as regards our knowledge of the causation of this disease. It is lamentable to think, that in West Bridgford during the last 3 years, 31 people were victims to this scourge—many of them, while in the prime of life.

(5) MEASLES. This disease was practically absent from the Parish during the year.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

A considerable improvement in the condition of these is noticable since my last Report. Still a good deal remains to be done, especially in the way of drainage.

At present little attention is paid to this—the drains as a rule are blocked and liquid filth is allowed to flow where it will, until absorbed or until evaporation takes place. One farm in the parish is a deplorable example of this.

The laying and relaying of drains in connection with cowsheds should be subject to the approval of your officials

LAUNDRIES.

The only laundry in the parish is occasionally visited by the Surveyor and myself. It is kept in good order and any little suggestion from us is readily attended to by the owner.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 7 of these in the parish. They are subject to periodic visits. All are kept clean and sanitary—they comply with the requirements of your Council in all respects.

OUTWORKERS.

Two additional notifications were received during the year making 5 in all. These work under more favourable conditions than town workers.

METEORALOGICAL.

1908 was a dry year The rainfall being 22.7 inches or 2.9 inches less than during 1907.

The average yearly rainfall for the past 42 years was 24.8 inches, the rainfall for 1908 being 2.2 ins. below the average.

The heaviest rainfall was on 25th March when .613 of an inch fell.

July was the wettest month when 3.1 inches of rain fell.

July 2nd was the hottest day, the Thermometer reading 84 in the shade. December 30 was the coldest day when the reading was 7.4—a range of temperature of 76.6 degrees.

It is interesting to note that November with an average temperature of 45.0, was warmer than April, the average temperature of which was 42.4.

SUNSHINE. During the year 1342 hours of Sunshine were recorded as compared with 1324 hours in 1907. June was the sunniest month with 216 hours of sunshine.

WIND. The year was singularly free from high winds. The only severe gale was on 22nd February, when the wind at one time attained a velocity of 66 miles per hour.

Appended are the usual Local Government Board Tables.

I desire in conclusion to again express to the Members of your Council and to your Officials my sincere thanks for their continued kindness and help.

I am,

Yours obediently,

WALTER HUNTER,

Med. Officer of Health.

TABLE I.
Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1908 and Previous Years.
WEST BRIDGFORD (Nottinghamshire).

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED in the District				TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT	Deaths of non-residents registered in Public Institution in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institution's beyond the District.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
		Number.	Rate.	Under 1 year of age.		At all Ages					Number	Rate.
				Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered	Number.	Rate.					
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1898	5776	101	17.5	14	138	52	9.					
1899	6260	126	20.1	11	87	53	8.5					
1900	6859	130	18.8	6	46	60	8.7					
1901	7018	142	20.2	11	77	76	10.8					
1902	7839	147	18.6	19	139	71	9.					
1903	8766	163	18.6	11	67	64	7.3					
1904	9495	163	17.2	11	67	68	7.2					
1905	9837	170	17.2	11	65	66	6.7					
1906	10143	149	14.7	11	74	76	7.5			6	82	8.1
1907	10755	173	16.1	6	35	80	7.4			3	83	7.7
Averages for years 1898-1907	8274	146	17.9	11	79	66	8.2					
1908	11362	188	16.5	11	58	64	5.6			6	70	6.2

NOTE.—The deaths to be included in Column 7 of this Table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division:

Area of District in acres exclusive of area covered by water).	1190.	{	Total population at all ages	...	7018
			Number of inhabited houses	...	1544
			Average number of persons per house	...	4.5

At Census of 1901.

TABLE II.

WEST BRIDGFORD (Nottinghamshire).

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
	A	B	C	D
1898 ...	5776	101	52	14
1899 ...	6260	126	53	11
1900 ...	6859	130	60	6
1901 ..	7018	142	70	11
1902 ...	7839	147	71	19
1903 ...	8766	163	64	11
1904	9495	163	68	11
1905 ...	9837	170	66	11
1906 ...	10143	149	76	11
1907 ...	10755	173	80	6
Averages of Years 1898 to 1907. }	8275	146	66	11
1908 ...	11362	188	71	11

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during year 1908.

WEST BRIDGFORD (Nottinghamshire).

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							
	At Ages—Years.							
	At all Ages	Under 1 year,	1 to 5	5 to 15,	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and Upw'ds.	Total cases rem'd to Hospit'l
Small Pox... ..								
Cholera								
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	7		2	4		1		
Erysipelas	2					1	1	
Scarlet Fever	33		8	20	3	2		1
Typhus Fever								
Enteric Fever	5		1		1	3		
Relapsing Fever								
Continued Fever								
Puerperal Fever	1					1		
Plague								
Totals	48		11	24	4	8	1	1

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1908.

WEST BRIDGFORD (Nottinghamshire).

CAUSES OF DEATH	DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF RESIDENTS WHETHER OCCURRING IN OR BEYOND THE DISTRICT.						
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and up-wards.
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	1			1			
Epidemic Influenza ..	2						2
Puerperal Fever ..	1					1	
Phthisis. (Pulmonary Tuberculosis.)	4				2	2	
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	3	1			2		
Cancer, Malignant Disease	11					4	7
Bronchitis	3						3
Pneumonia	3	1				2	
Alcoholism Cirrhosis of Liver }	1					1	
Premature Birth ...	6	6					
Heart Diseases ...	13					3	10
All other causes ...	16	3				3	10
All causes ...	64	11		1	4	16	32

TABLE V.

Infantile Mortality during the Year 1908.

WEST BRIDGFORD (Nottinghamshire).

CAUSE OF DEATH	DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES IN WEEKS AND MONTHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.														
	Under 1 Week	1—2 Weeks	2—3 Weeks	3—4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month.	1—2 Months	2—3 Months	3—4 Months	4—5 Months	5—6 Months	6—7 Months	7—8 Months	8—9 Months	11—12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 Year
Premature Birth ...	2	1		1	4			1					1		6
Tubercular Meningitis									1						1
Tubercular Peritonitis : Tabes Mesenterica }							1								1
Convulsions		1			1										
Pneumonia														1	1
Other Causes ...						1									1
					5										11

Population (estimated to middle of 1908) ... 11,362.

Births in the { legitimate ... 187.
illegitimate ... 1.

Deaths in the year of { legitimate infants .. 11.
illegitimate infants ... 0.

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages .. 70 (corrected deaths).

